

**THE CORONATION OF
EDWARD THE SEVENTH**

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BY HIS MAJESTY'S GRACIOUS COMMAND

THE CORONATION OF
EDWARD THE SEVENTH

A CHAPTER OF
EUROPEAN AND IMPERIAL HISTORY

290

BY

JOHN EDWARD COURtenay BODLEY
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE

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BOOK I

THE GROWTH OF THE SENTIMENT OF LOYALTY IN THE BRITISH NATION

[Owing to the scope of this work, many international, historical and constitutional questions are treated on which opinion is necessarily not unanimous. The author, therefore, wishes it to be understood that he is solely responsible for all that is contained in these pages.]

CHAPTER I

THE EVOLUTION OF BRITISH LOYALTY

BY the hazard of an untimely malady the Coronation of King Edward VII. took place on an anniversary most notable in the annals of regality.

The date of August 9th, 1902, to which the ceremony was postponed, by reason of the illness of the King, was the hundred and tenth anniversary of the last day of the ancient French monarchy. In the experiences of modern nations it would be hard to find a contrast more impressive than in the circumstances of the two historic days.

On August 9, 1792, the King and Queen of France, besieged in their palace of the Tuilleries by their own subjects, were awaiting the tocsin which at midnight they knew was to toll the knell of the monarchy, after eight hundred years of hereditary sway under which France had grown into a great nation.¹ For the institution of royalty there was no hope left, save in the chance of successful foreign intervention. The lives of the sovereigns would be secure only if the alien soldiery in their service could aid their escape from the furious population of the capital, now reinforced by the fierce battalions from Marseilles, which had arrived in Paris, chanting their new revolutionary war-song. 'We all know how the morrow ended. The Swiss guard massacred, the Tuilleries cannonaded, and Louis, no longer

¹ *Mémoires de Cléry, valet de chambre du Dauphin Dernières années de Louis XVI.*, par François Hué, huissier de la chambre du Roi.